NEW DIRECTORS REPRESENTING CITY OF ANAHEIM, ORANGE, SAN DIEGO COUNTIES JOIN METROPOLITAN BOARD

Three new directors representing the city of Anaheim and water agencies in Orange and San Diego counties were seated today as new members of the Metropolitan Water District’s Board of Directors.

Don Calkins, assistant general manager of water services for Anaheim Public Utilities, replaces Kris Murray as the city’s representative on Metropolitan’s 37-member board. Murray served on the board since August 2009.

Larry McKenney, who served on the board of directors of Moulton Niguel Water District, fills the Municipal Water District of Orange County’s seat formerly held by John V. “Jack” Foley, the two-time Metropolitan board chairman who passed away in March.

Business consultant Yen C. Tu joins Fern Steiner, Michael Hogan and Keith Lewinger as San Diego County Water Authority representatives on the Metropolitan board. Tu succeeds Vincent Mudd, who served on the board since November 2012.

Calkins was named to the Metropolitan board’s Organization, Personnel and Technology Committee, Engineering and Operations Committee, and Water Planning and Stewardship Committee, while McKenney was added to the Finance and Insurance Committee, Legal and Claims Committee, and Special Committee on Bay-Delta. Tu was appointed to the Legal and Claims Committee, Communications and Legislation Committee, and Agriculture and Business Outreach Committee.

As Anaheim’s assistant general manager of water services, Calkins is responsible for managing the city’s water operations and maintenance, long-range planning, project design and construction, along with water resources and conservation. Prior to joining Anaheim Public
Utilities in September 1996 as water engineering manager, Calkins was an engineering consultant providing planning, design, construction and operations services for water utilities throughout the western United States.

A registered professional civil engineer in California, he earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and master’s degree in sanitary engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He also holds a master’s degree in public administration from the University of La Verne.

Calkins and his wife, Debbie, have four grown children.

McKenney served on Moulton Niguel’s board for six years, during which he represented the district on the boards of directors of the San Juan Basin Authority and the Association of California Water Agencies, Region 10. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Southern California Water Committee and chair’s the SCWC’s Legislative Issues Task Force.

The executive general counsel to the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, McKenney has been a public agency attorney and headed a private law practice. He also has led the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton’s Office of Water Resources and the Orange County’s Watershed and Coastal Resources Division. In addition, he has worked for an engineering consulting firm.

Born in Somerset, Ky., McKenney is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and the University of Texas School of Law. He retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2007 after 22 years of service, including 13 years of active duty and nine years in the Reserves.

McKenney and his wife, Connie, reside in Aliso Viejo. They have twin sons.

Tu has represented the city of San Diego on the Water Authority’s board of directors since December 2001 and currently chairs the board’s Water Planning Committee. She also is vice chair of the board’s Small Contractor Outreach and Opportunities Program and is a member of the Engineering and Operations Committee. In addition, she is the Water Authority’s representative on the Conservation Action Committee and an alternate representative for the Water Conservation Garden JPA.

Born in Saigon, Vietnam before immigrating with her family to the United States in 1997, Tu owns a consulting business in San Diego, focusing on marketing, community outreach and special events.
Tu previously served as community relations manager for Viejas Enterprises, executive director of the Asian Business Association and a senior campaigner for the United Way of San Diego County. In addition, she was a legislative aide for San Diego City Councilmembers Barbara Warden and Tom Behr as well as San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts.

Active in community affairs, she serves as a member of San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer’s Asian Advisory Council, the University of California, San Diego Chancellor’s Community Advisory Board and San Diego Gas & Electric’s Community Advisory Council as well as an ex-officio member of the city’s Independent Rates Oversight Committee. Tu also is a board member of the San Diego Asian Business Association and the San Diego Chinese Center.

A San Diego resident, Tu earned a bachelor’s degree in Chinese studies from the UCSD. Tu and her husband, Joe Passaretti, have two daughters.

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*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving nearly 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.*